

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAMOURE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING-Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

At 8:30 am Chairman Robert Flath called the meeting to order and opened by reciting the pledge of allegiance. Commissioners: Jason Weigel, Bruce Klein, Lee Miller, and Keith Heidinger were also present. Also attending were James Shockman, State's Attorney; Jan Hamlin, Auditor; Darrick Nitschke, Highway Superintendent and Art Hagebock, LaMoure Chronicle. Attending virtually was DES/911 Coordinator, Kimberly Robbins.

Chairman Flath called for additions to the agenda. Additions were reviewing residential values and the LaMoure Chamber employee appreciation picnic. Comm Miller also added approving the park board minutes from June 13<sup>th</sup> to the agenda. Comm Heidinger approved the agenda with additions, seconded by Comm Klein. All voting aye, motion carried.

Chairman Flath called for a review of the July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 commissioner minutes. A motion was made by Comm Weigel to approve the minutes, seconded by Comm Miller. All voting aye, motion carried.

Highway Superintendent, Darrick Nitschke, informed the board they are working on chip sealing. Darrick hopes to be done by next week. The crew is still moving along on shoulder pulls; they've completed 10 miles and have about 20 miles left. Darrick has received an application for a driveway. The Kennison township would like to build a driveway so a landowner can stop using a private drive. This driveway would entail an approach with a culvert. The application was tabled until the next meeting.

The topic of sick leave being transferred from one NDPERS job to another will be brought to the HR representative for clarification and tabled till the next meeting.

Agri Valley Insurance agent, Holly Braun, joined the meeting to talk about State Fire & Tornado insurance. State Fire & Tornado are recommending we change our coverage to a blanket coverage, this would put all the buildings on one blanket policy and personal property on a different blanket policy for insurance coverage. The cost is the same, but with the blanket policy, if there is a total loss the replacement cost is set to 125% value. Changing the policy would raise the value of the courthouse to \$13,108,400 making the premium go to \$1,797 with the blanket policy coverage. The current value of the courthouse is \$10,281,180. Keeping the policy, we currently have if there is a partial loss, the policy would only cover 80% of the value. Holly has informed us that there isn't a specific construction policy coverage but recommended adding the value of the up-and-coming building to the courthouse to have it considered covered. The board will review the information Holly provided.

DES/911 Coordinator, Kimberly Robbins, notified the board of the upcoming LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup> as well as the agenda items. The LEPC is made up of representatives of fire and ambulance departments, elected officials, and community members. They meet at least three times a year. There will be a radio vendor presentation at the meeting. LaMoure County is looking to replace radios throughout the county.

The Sargent County Commissioners have requested for the Berlin siren to be installed at Silver Lake. Comm Heidinger hasn't had any interest through Nortonville yet. The Berlin Siren has been tabled.

Comm Heidinger will be in contact with South Central Regional Council for more information about zoning.

ND Game and Fish representative, Bill Haase, presented to the board that a land owner had reached out to Game & Fish on selling some property. The land owner's interest is they'd really like the property to be open to the public and be maintained. The proposed land is southwest of Marion 160 acres and about 130 acres are wetlands the rest is CRP. Brian Kietzman, the

district supervisor, will be the manager of that area. Managing duties would be signing, haying, weed control, etc. The land will come out of the CRP program in September.

Break: 9:26am - 9:36 am

State's Attorney, James Shockman, prepared the NDPERS Public Safety Resolution. Comm Weigel made a motion to join the NDPERS Public Safety program, seconded by Comm Klein. All voting aye, motion carried. Comm Weigel made a motion for the county to pay the full 16.45% retirement contribution, Comm Heidinger seconded the motion. All voting aye, motion carried. The county currently pays 15.26% for retirement for other county employees.

Sheriff Fernandes had reached out to some surrounding counties on their benefits and pay. Fernandes presented these numbers to the board. Fernandes would like to see the county contribute more to the family insurance plan. This would make the county more competitive with surrounding counties. At this time, because of the grandfathered status of the current plan, there are contribution limitations. The board feels these changes have been addressed in the 2024 budget, and the preliminary budget will be approved later in the meeting.

State's Attorney, James Shockman, provided more clarification on how the mill and general funds can be spent for the museum. The museum is authorized under the NDCC 11-11-53 to receive \$5,000 from the county general funds and .25 mills from the County Historical Mill levy. The museum has the potential to go up to .75 mill with 60% approval of the people.

If the buildings need upkeep, the museum needs to follow the proper channels and have commissioner board approval to have the county cover the bills.

Park Board special meeting: 10:36 am-10:54 am.

The regular commissioner meeting reconvened at 10:54 am. The park board per diem is currently at \$75. Comm Miller made a motion to increase the per diem to \$100 effective as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, seconded by Comm Klein. All voting aye, motion carried

Auditor, Jan Hamlin, presented the proposed preliminary budget. Comm Klein made a motion to approve the preliminary budget, seconded by Comm Miller. All voting aye, motion carried. The total for general government is \$3,737,063, special revenue funds \$5,554,510, and Prairie Dog/ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act)/LATCF funds \$3,336,113 for a total of 12,627,686.

The board set September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am as the public hearing date.

Comm Klein made a motion to pay for tickets to the LaMoure Chambers employee appreciation picnic, seconded by Comm Miller. All voting aye, motion carried.

Tax Director, Denice Porter, presented to the board that the state recommends residential values go up 4% putting us at 93%, the final report will not be released till October. Comm Heidinger made a motion to raise the residential 4%, seconded by Comm Weigel. All voting aye, motion carried.

The Pfifer Auction is set for August 31<sup>st</sup> - September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Comm Heidinger made a motion to pay the bills presented, seconded by Comm Weigel. All voting aye, motion carried.

<b><u>Vendor Name</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
BANKNORTH	830.00
BARNES RURAL WATER DISTRICT	64.25
BUILDERS MART	59.30
CENTRAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC	287.49
CITY OF KULM	80.09
COLE PAPERS INC	102.93
DACOTAH PAPER CO.	60.48
DICKEY RURAL COMMUNICATIONS	1,245.41

FARM GIRL FLORAL & MORE	50.00
FASTNACHT/JOSHUA	100.32
GOOD OIL COMPANY	21,630.85
HAMLIN/JANICE	28.00
HEARTLAND STATE BANK / VISA	733.04
HI-WAY SERVICENTER,INC	3,715.03
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	1,447.91
KULM MESSENGER	313.50
LAMOURE CHRONICLE	1,480.77
LAMOURE PARTS CENTER	1,505.52
LEAF	120.40
LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT, INC	52.21
NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION	71.00
ND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	1,233.58
PACWEST TOOL AND SAFETY	1,857.60
QUILL CORPORATION	48.99
R & S COLLISION CENTER, INC.	288.64
RACINE/JULIANNE	155.89
SHOCKMAN LAW, PLLC	2,614.78
SOLINGER'S LUMBER INC	151.93
STUTSMAN RURAL WATER DISTRICT	50.32
TYLER TECHNOLOGIES	449.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	522.40
WORREL/CINDY	45.50

Chairmen Flath adjourn the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

APPROVED THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2023

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ROBERT FLATH, Chairman

ATTEST:

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JAN HAMLIN, County Auditor